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A REPORT OF INTERIM ACTIVITY . . . MONTANA LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL . . . HELENA

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JOINT INTERIM SUBCOMMITTEE NO. 3

APRIL 19 & 20
MEETING SET

Subcommittee No. 3 will meet for a two-day session, Thursday and Friday, April 19 and 20, in Room 104 of the State Capitol. The meeting on Thursday begins at 9:00 a.m.; Friday's session starts at 8:00 a.m.

COURT
UNIFICATION

The agenda topic for Thursday, April 19, is court unification (SJR 25). Subcommittee members will hear a staff report on district court finances and review an options checklist on court unification. The Subcommittee will then solicit comments from interested persons on options to be incorporated into draft legislation.

PUBLIC
PENSION
OVERSIGHT

On Friday, April 20, the Subcommittee will focus on public pension oversight (HJR 44) and state investments (HJR 4). During the morning session, staff will present a brief overview of Montana's public employee retirement systems and review past legislative activities concerning public pensions. Comments from retirement boards and administrators will follow. The consulting actuary for the retirement systems will then discuss the role of actuarial assumptions and valuations in pension administration.

STATE
INVESTMENTS

On Friday afternoon, the Subcommittee will continue its study on state investments including consideration of a request by the Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corporation for amendment of Montana law.

JOINT INTERIM SUBCOMMITTEE NO. 4

TEACHER
TENURE
DISCUSSED
MARCH 2

Subcommittee No. 4 met March 2 in Helena to begin addressing the study of teacher tenure (HJR 43). The agenda included review of a staff report on Montana's tenure and teacher employment laws, court interpretations of those laws, the tenure laws of other states, and available alternatives. Persons and organizations interested in teacher employment issues testified and joined the Subcommittee in a dialogue on the study issues.

NEXT DATE:
APRIL 13

Subcommittee No. 4 will meet again on Friday, April 13, at 9:30 a.m. in Room 104 of the State Capitol. This meeting will be a work session to discuss the various teacher employment issues and available options and to select topics for further study consideration and final recommendations.

COAL TAX OVERSIGHT SUBCOMMITTEE

GREAT FALLS
MEETING
APRIL 13

The Rainbow Hotel in Great Falls will be the site for the meeting of the Coal Tax Oversight Subcommittee on Friday, April 13. The meeting will open at 9:30 a.m., and the first item on the agenda will be a report by the Coal Board on its local impact grants.

The Subcommittee will review its activities and lay plans to complete its work for this biennium.

ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY COUNCIL

VARIETY OF
ISSUES TO BE
COVERED
APRIL 5 & 6

The Environmental Quality Council will hold its next meeting Friday, April 6, beginning at 9:00 a.m. in Room 108 of the State Capitol. The agenda includes continued discussion of MEPA issues, a presentation on a proposal to preserve and enhance riparian habitat, oversight of water quality issues, an overview of the programs administered by the DNRC, a presentation on programs to encourage the use of energy conservation and renewable energy sources, and a report on the Alberta-Montana legislative exchange.

EQC subcommittees will hold meetings on Thursday, April 5, in Room 436 of the Capitol as follows: Water Oversight, 1:30 p.m.; Toxic Substances, 4:00 p.m.; and Natural Resources Oversight, 7:00 p.m.

THE SELECT COMMITTEE ON WATER MARKETING

ECONOMICS,
LAW, AND
INSTREAM
VALUES
REVIEWED

The Select Committee on Water Marketing met in Helena on March 3 and heard a presentation from economist Dr. Bruce Finnie on market factors affecting the possible sale of Montana's surplus waters to industrial users.

The Committee also discussed a staff outline of legal considerations that will likely affect Montana's future water management actions. This discussion summarized a legal seminar held in Missoula in January, which was attended by some of the Committee members.

During the March meeting there also was a report from Jim Flynn, Director of the Department of Fish, Wildlife, and Parks, on the use of instream flow reservations for the protection of fish, wildlife, and other values.

POSSIBLE
RECOMMENDA-
TIONS ON TAP
FOR MAY 4

The Select Committee tentatively plans to meet next on May 4 at the State Capitol in Helena. The Committee will begin to discuss alternative recommendations that it may make to the next Legislature based on the information it has collected and considered to date.

MONTANA LEGISLATIVE POWER PLAN STUDY COMMITTEE

HELENA
MEETING
APRIL 16

The next meeting of the Legislative Power Plan Study Committee, established in accordance with HJR 18, has been scheduled for Monday, April 16. It is an open meeting and the public is invited and encouraged to attend. The meeting will begin at 10:00 a.m. in the Garden Room at the Coach House East, 2101 11th Avenue in Helena.

QUESTIONS
ON THE
AGENDA

In order to reach an informed decision, the Chairman has requested the Committee to consider the following questions:

1. Is there any disagreement that conservation is the most cost-effective source of electricity to meet our growing needs?
2. Why should conservation be promoted when the region has moved from expected scarcity to a surplus of electricity?
3. Should conservation be financed through rates as with generation resources or through individual customer contributions?
4. Should conservation be obtained through regulation such as building codes or through market approaches such as higher rates or subsidies?
5. Whose responsibility is it to see that conservation targets are achieved: state or local government, utilities, or homeowners and builders?
6. Are the Plan's Model Conservation Standards the only option to achieving energy savings goals in the new house construction portion of the residential sector?
7. Why should Montana change its laws to satisfy some regional standard?
8. What resources would be required if the state adopts or allows local governments to adopt the Plan's Model Conservation Standards?

These questions will be discussed and the Committee will decide if these are the right questions, if there are others, and how the Committee should go about addressing them.

The Chairman directed these questions be circulated with an expressed invitation to any interested group or individual to comment or present their opinions on these and any other related issues during the meeting.

For further information contact Bernd Hoffmann at 444-3952.

*all meetings are subject to change

LEGISLATIVE INTERIM CALENDAR

APRIL

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1	2	3	4	5 EQC - Rm. 436	6 Leg. Audit Comm.-Rm.104 all day EQC-Rm.103 8am	7 Leg. Finance Comm.-Rm.104
8	9	10	11	12	13 Comm. #4 - 9:30-Rm.104 Coal Tax Over sight-G.F. Rainbow Hotel 9:30am	14
15	16 Power Plan. Comm. - Coach House East-Helena 10am	17	18	19 Subcomm. #3 - 9am	20 Rm. 104 8am	21
22 EASTER	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					



*all meetings are subject to change

LEGISLATIVE INTERIM CALENDAR

MAY

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1	2	3	4 Water Market. Comm. - Rm. 104 (tentative)	5
6	7 Leg. Council Rm. 139-10am	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

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